

[illegible]

**What is claimed is:**

- ✘ A hybrid speech encoder, comprising:

- (a) a linear prediction, pitch and, voicing analyzer;
- (b) a parametric encoder coupled to said analyzer; and
- (c) a waveform encoder coupled to said analyzer;
- (d) wherein said parametric encoder encodes an alignment phase.

2. The encoder of claim 1, wherein:

- (a) said alignment phase is encoded as the difference of an intermediate phase and a phase alignment to codebook waveform phase.

3. A speech decoder, comprising:

- (a) a linear prediction synthesizer; and
- (b) a parametric decoder coupled to said synthesizer;
- (c) wherein said parametric decoder decodes an alignment phase.

4. A speech encoder, comprising:

- (a) a linear prediction, pitch and, voicing analyzer; and
- (b) a parametric encoder coupled to said analyzer;
- (c) wherein said parametric encoder encodes an alignment phase.